

AALR Pembroke Hope

www.aalr4success.org

Pembroke, IL is one of the largest rural black communities north of the Mason-Dixon Line. **AALR** is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit organization that has served African Americans in the western suburbs of Chicago since 2000. After a couple of Board members visited Pembroke on Tues., June 16, 2020 to meet with community leaders and take a tour, AALR's Board of Directors voted unanimously on Sat., July 11, 2020 to develop a partnership with Pembroke. The partnership is called **Pembroke Hope**, similar to AALR's **Chicago Hope** program with Metropolitan Family Services-Calumet Office but with expanded programming.

AALR is also working with long-time partner and supporter, DuPage AME Church (Lisle, IL) which has a 10+ year history of partnership with Pembroke through their Missionary Society. Pat Stovall-Brooks, the president of the Missionary Society and others will work in partnership with AALR.

Current opportunities of collaboration being considered are:

- Supporting high school graduates going to college and/or a technical training program
- Providing research, knowledge input, networking resources for a laundromat
- Community Beautification Project
- Establishing an Advisory & Knowledge Resource Support Group

The high school support program will be chaired by Board member Marla Jarrett who has successfully chaired the Chicago Hope program for the last two years. This program provides a College Preparedness and Readiness (CPR), other learning and skill-building capacity, a set of luggage, and gifts to participating high school graduates.

At the request of a Pembroke resident, AALR has done some initial but limited research on establishing a laundromat in Pembroke. In considering a phased approach, AALR recommends that Pembroke residents consider investing in the following for their community:

- In the initial phase (6 months), see if a church, business, or location is available to partner with Pembroke investors to provide space for laundry space at no or minimal cost (provides time to get things set up).
- Location is everything so the location should be a place that is readily and easily accessible to most of the township
- Be available during hours of most need
- Initially consider leasing 3-4 washer and dryers for the first 6 months to see if feasible
- A used vending machine for coins
- Proper liability insurance
- Ensure proper sewage
- A used vending machine for detergent and other necessary laundromat products
- Adequate table and chairs for people to wait and/or fold clothes

See article, **How to Start a Coin-Operated Laundry**, <https://www.entrepreneur.com/article/190424>. Based on the first 6 months, Pembroke investors may want to consider purchasing/leasing additional washers and dryers.

AALR desires to partner with the Pembroke Township in providing informed decision-makers as knowledge resources to support informed decision-making. We are thankful for the friendship and hospitality extended by Tonia Thomas, Rev., Terry L. Roundtree, Mayor Mark Hodge, School Superintendent, Dr. Marcus Alexander, and other Pembroke residents in a long and trusting relationship.